National Agricultural Summary

July 31 - August 6, 2000

HIGHLIGHTS

Below-normal temperatures slightly hindered crop development in the Corn Belt and Southeast, while above-normal temperatures stimulated row crop development and ripened small grains in the Great Plains. Dry weather aided the small grain harvest in the Great Plains and Pacific Northwest, but also increased moisture shortages. In the Corn Belt, moisture supplies remained mostly adequate due to additional precipitation during the week, especially east of the Mississippi River. Isolated severe storms damaged some crops in the central Corn Belt. Crops in the Southeast and lower Mississippi Valley received much-needed precipitation, but rainfall varied considerably and moisture shortages remained widespread. Hot, dry weather stimulated crop development in California, while seasonal temperatures and ample moisture aided crops in the mid-Atlantic Coastal Plains.

Corn: Ninety-six percent of the crop was at or beyond the silking stage, slightly ahead of last year's early development and more than 1 week ahead of the 5-year average. Forty-two percent was at or beyond the dough stage, compared with 36 percent on this date last year and considerably ahead of the average for this date. Above-normal temperatures promoted rapid development in the Great Plains. Silking advanced 14 percentage points in Colorado. In North and South Dakota, late fields rapidly entered the silking stage, while early fields quickly progressed to the dough stage. Seasonal temperatures aided silking progress in Michigan and Pennsylvania. Fields rapidly entered the dough stage across most of the Corn Belt, despite cooler-than-normal weather. In Indiana, 25 percent of the acreage entered the dough stage. In Iowa and Nebraska, acreage at or beyond the dough stage more than doubled, to 30 and 39 percent, respectively. Twelve percent of the crop was dented, ahead of last year's 8 percent and the average of 6 percent. Moisture supplies remained adequate for development across most of the Corn Belt. However, moisture shortages increased in parts of the western Corn Belt and adjacent parts of the Great Plains. Severe storms produced damaging wind, rain, and hail in isolated areas of the central and eastern Corn Belt.

Soybeans: Ninety-two percent of the crop was blooming, slightly ahead of last year's early progress, and more than 1 week ahead of the average for this date. Near-normal temperatures stimulated blooming in the lower Mississippi Valley, where 15 percent of the acreage entered the bloom stage in Arkansas and Tennessee. Seasonal temperatures also aided progress in Kansas and Michigan. Sixty-nine percent of the acreage was setting pods, 10 percentage points ahead of last year's pace and far ahead of the 47-percent normal for this date. Fields rapidly entered the pod setting stage in the Corn Belt and Great Plains, despite slightly below-normal temperatures. Thirty percent of the acreage began setting pods in Minnesota and more than 20 percent began setting pods in Indiana, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Wisconsin. Pod setting advanced 19 percentage points in Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio.

Small grains: The winter wheat harvest advanced to 95 percent complete, about 1 week ahead of last year and the average for this date. The harvest season ended in California, Colorado, Michigan, and Nebraska. Dry weather aided rapid progress in the northern Great Plains and Pacific Northwest. Montana growers harvested nearly one-half of their crop during the week.

The spring wheat crop was 23 percent harvested, ahead of last year's 15 percent pace and the average of 11 percent. Harvest was very active in South Dakota, where growers harvested 50 percent of the acreage during the week. Harvest gained momentum in Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, and Washington.

The barley crop was 26 percent harvested, compared with 9 percent last year and 10 percent normally harvested by this date. Dry weather aided rapid progress in Minnesota and Montana. Harvest accelerated in North Dakota and Washington, and steadily advanced in Idaho.

The oat harvest advanced to 59 percent complete, 4 percentage points ahead of last year and 14 percentage points ahead of the average for this date. Harvest was very active across the northern Corn Belt. Growers in South Dakota harvested 39 percent of their crop. In Minnesota and Wisconsin, harvest progressed 30 and 26 percentage points, respectively. Progress was limited by slow ripening fields in Ohio and wet weather in Pennsylvania.

Cotton: Acreage setting bolls advanced to 86 percent, slightly ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Warm weather accelerated development in Virginia, where 31 percent of the crop began setting bolls during the week. Seasonal temperatures also aided rapid progress in North Carolina and Oklahoma. Hot weather stimulated development in California. Bolls were opening on 8 percent of the crop, equal to the average for this date and slightly ahead of last year's pace. Development was most advanced along the western Gulf Coast and interior areas of the Southwest.

Rice: Sixty-four percent of the crop was headed, slightly ahead of last year and the average. Seasonal temperatures aided rapid progress in the interior Mississippi Delta States, although development remained well behind the average in Mississippi. Eleven percent was harvested, ahead of last year's 10 percent pace and the normal progress of 6 percent. Rain limited progress along parts of the western Gulf Coast. However, the harvest pace remained well ahead of normal in Louisiana and Texas, where growers harvested 12 and 22 percent of the acreage, respectively, during the week.

Other crops: Seventy-three percent of the sorghum acreage was at or beyond the heading stage, more than 1 week ahead of last year and the average for this date. Above-normal temperatures aided progress in the Great Plains, while cooler-than-normal weather hindered progress in the Corn Belt. Thirty-two percent of the crop was turning color, compared with 24 percent last year and 26 percent normally turning color by this date. Warm weather quickly ripened fields in the lower Mississippi Valley and southern Great Plains. Hot weather and moisture shortages stressed fields in the Great Plains, while heavy rain damaged fields in the isolated parts of the Corn Belt.

Eighty-nine percent of the peanut acreage was pegging, 5 percentage points behind last year's pace. Moist soils and seasonal temperatures aided pegging in Virginia, while hard, dry soils restricted pegging in Alabama. Scattered rain improved conditions in Florida and limited deterioration in other parts of the Southeast.